

3.11 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

3.11.1 POLICY/REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS

Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations, as amended, directs Federal agencies to develop an Environmental Justice Strategy that identifies and addresses disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) has oversight responsibility of the Federal government's compliance with Executive Order 12898 and NEPA. The CEQ, in consultation with the USEPA and other agencies has developed guidance to assist Federal agencies with their NEPA procedures so that environmental justice concerns are effectively identified and addressed.

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

According to the CEQ's *Environmental Justice Guidance Under the National Environmental Policy Act*, agencies should consider the composition of the affected area, to determine whether minority populations, low-income populations, or Indian tribes are present in the area affected by the Proposed Action, and if so whether there may be disproportionately high and adverse environmental effects. A significant environmental justice effect would result if the action results in a disproportionately high, adverse effect to minority and low-income populations and such an effect occurs with greater frequency for these populations than for the general population as a whole.

3.11.2 KENOSHA PROJECT SITE

To determine whether a proposed action is likely to have disproportionately high and adverse effects, agencies must identify a geographic scale for which they will obtain demographic information. This should roughly correspond to the affected environment. In this case, Kenosha County was selected with a particular emphasis on Census Tracts 6, 26, 27 and 28, as these areas are most closely associated with the affected environment.

Census tracts are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of counties, delineated by local committees of census data users for the purpose of presenting data. Census tract boundaries normally follow visible features, but may follow governmental unit boundaries or other features. They are designed to be relatively homogeneous units with respect to population characteristics, economic status, and living conditions at the time of establishment. Block groups within each census tract were also examined.

RACE

According to the 2000 Census, approximately 98.1 percent of Kenosha County residents are classified as people of “one race”. Of these residents, 88.4 percent are white, 5.1 percent are black or African American, 0.9 percent are Asian (including Asian Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Korean, Vietnamese, or other), and all others are 3.7 percent of the overall population. Hispanic or Latinos of any race represent 7.2 percent of the total population.

The populations surrounding the project site (i.e. Census Tracts 6, 26, 27, and 28) are almost entirely non-minority. Approximately 94 percent of all one-race persons within Census Tracts 6, 26, 27 and 28, are white. These characteristics are summarized in **Table 3.11-1**.

TABLE 3.11-1
RACIAL COMPOSITION OF KENOSHA COUNTY AND AFFECTED AREA

Geographic Area	Total Population	White	Black	AI/AN	ASIAN	OTHER
Kenosha County	149,577	132,193	7,600	564	1,381	7,839
Census Tract 6	11,281	10,177	529	29	196	341
Census Tract 26	10,024	8999	344	43	321	317
Census Tract 27	4,570	4,454	13	5	41	57
Census Tract 28	6,215	6,082	23	12	20	53

SOURCE: U.S. Census, 2000

INCOME

According to 1999 U.S. Census data Wisconsin median household income was \$43,791 with 8.7 percent of the population living below the poverty line. This figure contrasts with corresponding figures for the U.S. population of \$41,994 and 12.4 percent living below the poverty line. In comparison, the 2000 Census shows the median household income of Kenosha County as \$46,970, while median family income was \$56,525. Approximately 7 percent of all persons in Kenosha County for whom status could be determined are below the poverty line. In summary, income levels for Kenosha County are significantly higher than the statewide average and contrast even more sharply with figures for the U.S. population as a whole.

3.11.3 KESHENA SITE

Menominee County was selected as the geographic area for analysis with a particular emphasis on the town of Keshena itself. The rural environment of Keshena stands in stark contrast to the more urban Kenosha. Total population of Keshena is 1,394 with only 376 housing units available.

RACE

According to the 2000 Census, approximately 99.3 percent of Menominee County residents can be classified as people of “one race”. Of these residents, 11.6 percent are white, 0.1 percent are black or African American, 87.3 percent are American Indian or Alaska Native, and all others are 1.0 percent of the overall population. Hispanic or Latinos of any race represent 2.7 percent of the total population. The 87.3 percent American Indian population is predominantly composed of Menominee Tribal members.

INCOME

The 2000 Census shows the median household income of Menominee County as \$29,440, while median family income was \$28,385. Approximately 28.8 percent of individuals in Menominee County live below the poverty line.